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## *JUDICIAL PROFILE*

**Susan R. Bolton** has been the Special Assignment Presiding Judge since May 1996. She implemented the first Drug Court in Arizona in March, 1992 as one of the first 10 in the United States. Today, there are approximately 400 Drug Courts throughout the United States. Judge Bolton continues to preside over Drug Court which targets first time offenders charged with non-violent drug offenses and involves them in a program of counseling, community service and random drug testing. Appointed in 1988, she spent four years in the Criminal Department and more than three and one-half years in the Civil Department. After receiving her law degree from the University of Iowa, she became a law clerk for the Hon. Laurence T. Wren, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One. She worked there for two years and in 1977 joined the law firm of Shimmel, Hill, Bishop and Gruender, where she stayed until her appointment to Superior Court.



Judge Bolton serves as one of the court's leadership judges and has a reputation as a thoughtful, capable trial judge. She is an active member of the State Bar of Arizona and the Criminal Rules Committee. Over the years she chaired the Civil Jury Instruction Committee and participated in the Civil Practice and Procedure Committee and Coalition for Minorities and Women in the Law. She was a charter member of the Arizona Women Lawyer Association in 1986 and served as its president. She has been a board member of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Judge Bolton is a member and was formerly chairperson of the Bench Bar Committee of the Maricopa County Bar Association. Other membership's include the American Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges and in 1990 she was the president of Soroptimist International of Phoenix.